

Top Secret

BOLIVIA: Negotiations

Rebel leader General Natusch is negotiating with the junta of military commanders under the auspices of the Papal Nuncio. Senior junta chief General Bernal has agreed, at least temporarily, to halt a military operation aimed at recapturing the rebel strongholds in the eastern portion of the country, and there are conflicting reports about both sides' strength. Key troop commanders in La Paz have shown no sign yet of backing the rebels. Some of them, however, recognize that continuing the same pattern of corrupt and incompetent leadership would have an adverse impact on Bolivia's ability to gain essential international political and economic backing.

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Approved for Release
FEB 2000